

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /091 W

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FM AMCONGEN NAPLES IT

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 6189

INFO AMEMB ROME IT

AMCONGEN GENOA IT 125

AMCONGEN MILAN IT 206

AMCONGEN PALERMO IT 155

AMCONSUL FLORENCE IT

AMCONSUL TURIN IT 54

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ELAB, BGEN, IT

SUBJECT: NAPLES PROVINCE - NEW LEADERSHIP AT INDUSTRIALISTS UNION

1. THE MID-JULY NAPLES INDUSTRIALISTS UNION GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONCLUDED WITH THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIREC-
TORATE FOR THE 1978-1980 BIENNIUM. ARTURO CAROLA, A FIFTY-TWO
YEAR OLD HANDSOME, WELL TANNED, BALDING AND VIGOROUS ENGINEER IN
THE CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS REPLACES ANOTHER ACTIVIST,GINO CERIANI,

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WHOSE IMMEDIATE ASPIRATION IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE
CASSA PER IL MEZZOGIORNO (CERIANI ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED SOME
ASSURANCES THAT THE SHAKE UP AT"CASMEZ"INCLUDING THE VIRTUAL
DUMPING OF PRESIDENT SERVIDIO WOULD CONCLUDE WITH HIS ELECTION).
THAT ASPIRATION IS LIKELY TO BE UNFULFILLED, HOWEVER, SINCE
RECENTLY-RESIGNED ALFA ROMEO PRESIDENT GAETANO CORTESI HAS BEEN
NAMED TEMPORARY "COMMISSIONER"OF THE CASSA AND IS EXPECTED TO BE
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CONFIRMED AS PRESIDENT.

2. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE CONSULATE FOLLOWING HIS
ASSUMPTION OF INDUSTRIALIST UNION DUTIES CAROLA REFERRED TO THE
ONGOING CRISIS OF THE MEZZOGIORNO WHERE PER CAPITA INCOME REMAINS
60 PERCENT THAT OF THE NORTH. AFTER 26 YEARS OF GOI SPECIAL
ATTENTION TO THE MEZZOGIORNO THE NORTH/SOUTH PER CAPITA GAP HAS
BEEN NARROWED ONLY THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS (SOUTHERN PER CAPITA

INCOME WAS 57 PERCENT THAT OF THE NORTH IN 1951. OF COURSE IN ABSOLUTE AMOUNTS INCOMES IN BOTH AREAS HAVE INCREASED RATHER SPECTACULARLY).

3. CAROLA WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT INCREASED PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH OVER THE SHORT TERM. BUT HE FEELS PUBLIC SECTOR ACTION COULD BE EFFECTIVE. HE WAS NOT REFERRING TO THE RATHER

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FANCIFUL DISCUSSION OF CONSTRUCTING THE WORLDS GREATEST BRIDGE ACROSS THE STRAITS OF MESSINA (AT A PROJECTED COST OF PERHAPS 2-5 TRILLION LIRE AND PROVIDING 5,000 JOBS) WHICH HAS BEEN INTERPRETED BY SOME AS A SECOND GIOIA TAURO. THAT WAS AN UNFULFILLED PROMISE TO THE REGGIO CALABRIA AREA TO CONSTRUCT A MAJOR STEEL MANUFACTURING COMPLEX PROVIDING 7,500 JOBS. AGRICULTURAL LAND WAS DESTROYED, TOURIST PROSPECTS DAMAGED AND A DEEP WATER PORT PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTED. AS THE YEARS PASSED THE STEEL COMPLEX MADE EVER LESS ECONOMIC SENSE AND ULTIMATELY NOT EVEN POLITICAL PROMISE COULD SUSTAIN THE PROJECT.

4. RATHER THAN SUCH SCHEMES CAROLA FELT THAT PUBLIC FUNDS PRIMARILY FOR QUICK-START CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS INCLUDING HOUSING WOULD BE FORTHCOMING OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. THIS COULD MEAN UP TO 10,000 NEW JOBS FOR THE NAPLES-CAMPANIA AREA (WITH OVER 300,000 UNEMPLOYED IN CAMPANIA SUCH PUBLIC WORKS WOULD NOT RESOLVE THE PROBLEM BUT AT LEAST BE A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION). CONCERNING UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR THE CITY OF NAPLES - PORT MODERNIZATION, NEW CIVIC CENTER, NEW CENTRAL MARKET, ETC - POLITICAL FACTORS (BOTH AT THE CASSA AND NAPLES CITY) WILL DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF NECESSARY AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATING ACTIVITY UNTIL 1979, OPINED

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CAROLA. COLANTONIO

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NNN

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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